



USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions and/or comments to jean.a.mcginin@usace.army.mil.

The CADD/GIS Technology Center Corporate Staff Meeting

The Corporate Staff of the CADD/GIS Technology Center met at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station 11-12 February 2003. Members representing NAVFAC, NAVAIR, USACE, USMC, USCG, GSA, NASA, NIBS, and USGS were present. Mr. Harold Smith represented the Center at the meeting and presented the status of current projects as well as an outline of project descriptions for the Homeland Security and RPES Projects. Center OMA funding has been cut \$151K for FY03 and several suggestions were presented with suggested project deletions/delays to accommodate the reduction in funding.. Two projects were deleted/delayed and one project was deleted. The deleted project was the A/E/C CADD Standard Compliant Drawing Set, which was submitted by the Architectural FAC. The two projects which were deleted/delayed were the use of GIS to Simplify Environmental Impact Analysis Process, and the Air Obstruction Management System. The Standards Working Group presented information on their activities, which included the final revision to the Consolidated Objects Standards Strategic Plan. A report was given on the status of actions taken by organizations working on Homeland Security – the FGDC and HIFELD. Personnel

from Cherry Point MCAS gave a presentation on their GIS program as well as the Marine Corps GIS Working Group.

General Flowers to Speak at Bentley International Users Conference (BIUC)

General Flowers will be the Keynote speaker at the BIUC on 20 May 2003 at 0830. The BIUC is being held at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD 18-22 May. Registration will be available 7 April at <http://www.bentley.com/biuc/>. Several FAC Committees and the Project Wise Users Group will be meeting during the conference.

New Support Services Contracts Available to All Center Partners

“The CADD/GIS Technology Center recently awarded two Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) contracts for CADD, GIS, Facility Management, Environmental and Infrastructure Services and other related Information Technology Services. The awards were made to Michael Baker Jr., Inc. and InStep Software, LLC. Both companies provide a wide variety of services for these technologies and have significant experience in these fields.

“Both contracts were competitively awarded; therefore no further competition is required when customers place orders with either company. The contracts are as extremely cost effective with labor rates substantially below respective GSA schedule rates and containing all labor categories. The contracts are immediately available to all Center partnering agencies. All Corps of Engineers Contracting Officers are preauthorized to place orders.”

“All information, for both users and contracting personnel, is available on the Center’s web site at tsc.wes.army.mil under the main bar entitled CONTRACTS. In addition, detailed information about each company and its services and capabilities is available.” *Copied from Center web site.*

ProjectWise Users’ Group

The Project Wise (PW) Users’ Group has been formed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience with this software. There has been a great deal of interest in using PW for a process/workflow control system over the past years. The formation of this group is the next logical step in sharing information on PW and other similar systems that support engineering efforts. Initially this group was formed as a sub-group of the Systems FAC since many of the members of the SFAC are also key players in PW implementation throughout the Corps. This Users’ Group has been having placeware meetings monthly, starting 23 January. The minutes of the meetings can be found on <http://ckb.wes.army.mil>. Ed Mathison of Louisville District is the group lead.

Interior Electrical Design Software

For more than 10 years, the Electrical Section in the Fort Worth District has been using a computer design software package written by one of the Electrical Engineers in the Section. The software has now been re-written for the MS Windows. The Designer inputs the data to an on screen panelboard, selects mains, feeders, and feeder protection for each panel. Using the program, panel boards are connected together to calculate dry-type and main transformers. The designer then can click a button and the short circuit calculation is executed. Output is to Excel spreadsheets that can be linked to the drawings and Design Analysis. Output includes panel schedules, feeders and dry type transformers and calculations for load summary, feeders, transformers, motors and fault currents. The program is very easy to use and works in both Metric and English units. The program is now available for download at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/ed/elect/software/iedsdnld.htm> .
Submitted by Ricky Grubbs, Fort Worth District

CADD/GIS Technology Center (the Center) Call for FY04 Projects

A call for projects for FY04 was issued by the Center in early February, and submittals were due 17 March. The Center Field Working Groups will evaluate project submittals at their May meeting. If you are interested in reviewing the proposed projects and providing input into whether they should be part of the program, e-mail jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil, and she will e-mail you a copy of the proposed projects some time in April. The Center will put together a draft program and submit it to the Corporate Staff prior to their July meeting, where the projects will be discussed and voted on. A proposed program will be developed at that meeting for submittal to the Board of Directors for approval in August.

Cost FAC Survey

The Cost Field Activities CADD group conducted a survey to help determine the focus for developing a CADD Center project. This survey was follow-on to the FY01 project Evaluating Quantity Takeoff Software.

Micro Computer Aided Cost Engineering System (MCACES) Gold 5.30 continues to be the mainstay cost estimating software used throughout the Corps. This is a DOS based software no longer maintained or updated. A few districts have discontinued the Gold 5.30 version and use MFW (MCACES for Windows). However, the foundation for MFW is the DOS based databases. Early releases of the Corps' new estimating software M_{II} have been distributed to individuals completing the training course.

In response to the question, who in your district prepares the major quantities (quantity take-off) for cost estimates, the results were relatively uniform. Based on the survey it appears that

in half of the Corps districts cost engineers determine estimate quantities and in half of the districts, designers provide quantities for cost estimates.

The most definitive responses were to the question, “Within Cost Engineering what quantity take-off tools are used?” Choices provided were, manual (paper / ruler), digitizer (paper & digitizer), and electronic on monitor (computer monitor and electronic files). Results for manual and electronic on monitor corroborate the conclusion that the predominant method for determining quantities is the use of paper drawings/plans and ruler.

This survey was by no means scientific and the results stated above are generalities.
Submitted by Gareth Clausen, Walla Walla District

Structural Web Site

Check out the Structural Web Site at <http://stfac.wes.army.mil/>. This site was developed using SAC/FAC funds.

SAC Committee Members

The current SAC Committee members are:

- Larry Rogers, CESWF, Chair
- Art Connolly, CENAN
- John Bailen, CEMVP
- Daniel Hitchings, CELRP
- Ralph Barrett, CESAS
- Jean McGinn, HQUSACE

Field Action CADD (FAC) Committees

The names and e-mails of FAC members are no longer listed on the Corps CADD web site (<http://ckb.wes.army.mil>) due to security concerns since 9/11. If you are interested in information about any of the FACs, the names and districts of the chairs are listed below.

Geotechnical FAC: Chair Glen Kato, TAC.

Mechanical/Electrical FAC: Chair Ken Waldie, Fort Worth.

Cost FAC: Chair Gareth Clausen, Walla Walla.

Structural FAC: Chair Lorilee Taylor, St. Paul.

Systems FAC: Chair John Kincaid, Rock Island. .

Architectural FAC: Chair Stan Shirk, Omaha.

Civil/Site FAC: Chair Edward Murphy, Fort Worth.

If you are interested in being a POC for your particular discipline for any of these

committees, please contact the appropriate chair by e-mail.

CADD/GIS Technology Center Standards Comment Form

If you have concerns about items in the Center's A/E/C CADD or Spatial Data Standards you need to go to the Center's new "[CADD/GIS Center Standards Comment Form](#)". In an effort to provide an avenue by which users of the A/E/C CADD Standard and/or the Spatial Data Standard for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment can communicate their opinions concerning these products, the Center has developed a comment website. Submit as many recommendations as you like regarding either standard. You can also request a CD of either standard using the site." This form is accessible from the Center's main web page, <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>. From this site you can submit comments and also view disposition of any comments submitted.

Call for Articles

All but three of the articles in this issue of the Newsletter were written by Jean McGinn, CECW-EE. I would encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to my e-mail address) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of June 2003.